

CONTRIBUTIONS TO A KNOWLEDGE OF THE FAUNA
OF BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

No. I.

Communicated by THOS. STEEL, F.L.S., F.C.S.

INTRODUCTION.

Some time ago I received from my friend, the Rev. H. P. Schlencker, of the London Missionary Society, a miscellaneous collection of natural history specimens from the vicinity of Fife Bay, British New Guinea.

As our knowledge of the distribution of the Papuan fauna is but meagre, and Mr. Schlencker's collection comprises some forms of considerable interest, I have placed the following account of it before the Society. The various groups have been worked out by the gentlemen whose names appear at the head of each report, and my thanks are due to each of them for the hearty readiness with which they accepted my invitation to undertake the work of examination. I have pleasure in recording my gratitude to Mr. Schlencker for the enthusiastic manner in which he responded to my request for specimens and for his promise of further help in the same direction.

With few exceptions the specimens reached me in an excellent state of preservation.

Fife Bay is situated on the south coast of British New Guinea, Lat. $10^{\circ} 35' S.$, Long. $150^{\circ} E.$

i. LACERTILIA and BATRACHIA.—By A. H. S. LUCAS, M.A., B.Sc.

LACERTILIA.

The collection of Lizards from Fife Bay included as many as 16 species.

Three of the Geckos, though they are certainly common kinds, and plentifully distributed in the S.E. coast district, do not seem to have been formally recorded from New Guinea, though they are known to have a wide extension in the Western Pacific. These are *Gehyra oceanica*, *Gymnodactylus pelagicus*, and *Lepidodactylus lugubris*.

Homolepida englishi was described by DeVis in the Proceedings of this Society, in 1890, from a single specimen obtained from the St. Joseph River. The present example from Fife Bay answers closely to his description.

Keneuxia smaragdina was found by Dr. R. Semon in New Guinea, and also a new species of Skink which was described by Oudemans as *Liolepisma semonis* in Semon's Zool. Forschungsreisen, 1894. Of the latter there are two examples from Fife Bay.

All the other species which are represented in this collection are recorded as Papuan in the British Museum Catalogue of Lizards (Boulenger).

The complete list is as follows :—

GECKONIDÆ—

- Gehyra oceanica*, Lesson.
- G. variegata*, D. & B.
- Gecko vittatus*, Houtt.
- Gymnodactylus pelagicus*, Gir.
- Lepidodactylus lugubris*, D. & B.

AGAMIDÆ.

- Gonyocephalus papuensis*, Macleay.

VARANIDÆ.

- Varanus indicus*, Daudin.

SCINCIDÆ.

- Keneuxia smaragdina*, Boettger.
- Homolepida englishi*, DeVis.
- Liolepisma virens*, Peters.
- L. fuscum*, D. & B.

SCINCIDÆ.

- L. novæ-guineæ*, Meyer.
L. semonis, Oudemans.
Emoa cyanogaster, Lesson.
E. cyanura, Lesson.
Ablepharus boutonii, Desjardins.

BATRACHIA.

Threë frogs were sent in the collection.

Hyla arfakiana, Peters and Doria.—One example, agreeing well with the description and figures in the Ann. Mus. Genova, 1878, except that the tympanum is relatively larger in our specimen, being in diameter half as large as the eye. The authors describe extreme variation in colour. The present specimen is (in spirit) purplish-brown above and brownish below; the thighs are purple, spotted with whitish behind.

Batrachopsis melanopyga, Doria.—Two individuals, measuring 45 and 47 mm. respectively from snout to vent. The tympanum is nearly as long in vertical diameter as the eye is wide. There is no perceptible dark streak on the canthus rostralis. Otherwise the specimens agree with the generic and specific descriptions.

ii. OPHIDIA and PISCES.—By J. DOUGLAS OGILBY.

The collection of snakes numbers eight, belonging to the following species:—

1. TROPIDONOTUS (?) PICTURATUS.

According to Dr. Boulenger this is a widely spread and very variable species; and as it seems to me that it may be possible to break it up into well-marked subspecies or local races, I think it advisable to give the following description of the Fife Bay specimens in order to facilitate comparison with specimens from other localities:—

Eye as long as its distance from the anterior border of the nostril. Rostral much broader than deep, just visible from above; internasals a little broader than long, as long as the prefrontals,

broadly truncate anteriorly; frontal once and one-third as long as broad, longer than its distance from the end of the snout, much shorter than the parietals; loreal longer than deep; 2 pre- and 3 postoculars; temporals 1 + 1; 8 upper labials, the third, fourth, and fifth entering the eye; five lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields, which are five but little smaller than the posterior. Scales in 15 series, the outer conspicuously keeled; ventrals 140; anal divided; subcaudals 82. Olive-green; labials yellow, with dark edges; below yellowish, the subcaudals dark edged.*

From Dr. Boulenger's description this example differs in having the internasals broader than long, the frontal only one and one-third times as long as broad and much shorter than the parietals, the loreal longer than deep, and the outer series of scales conspicuously keeled. *Katophis plumbea*, Macleay, agrees much better with Dr. Boulenger's description, but in all three examples the rostral is twice as broad as deep, and the loreal is as long or longer than deep. The shape and position of the temporals are very variable, no two specimens being alike in this respect. So far as can be judged from the data before me Papuan specimens have invariably a longer tail than Australian; thus:—

a. Fife Bay, New Guinea	—subc. 82.
b-d. Katow, New Guinea	— ,, 72.
e-g. Fly River, New Guinea	— ,, 74, 80, 82.*
a-b. Herbert River, Q.	— ,, 61, 64 (<i>T. ater</i>).
c. Cape York, Q.	— ,, 58.*
d. Rockhampton, Q.	— ,, 72.*
e-g. Port Essington, N.T.	— ,, 67, 68, 72.*
h. N.W. Australia	— ,, 66.*
i. N. Australia	— ,, 69.*

This short series gives—New Guinea, 72-82; Australia, 58-72. Of course this character may be of no importance, and may not be borne out by a larger series,† but there can be no harm in calling attention to it.

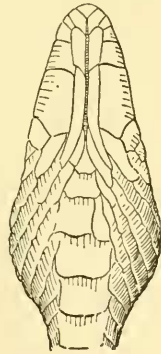
* See British Museum Catalogue, i. p. 216.

† It is worth noting that the smallest number mentioned by Boulenger was found in a Cape York specimen.

T. ater, Macleay, only differs from *T. picturatus* in having a longer and narrower frontal shield, which in the two examples is from one and three-fourths to one and nine-tenths times as long as wide, and is much longer than the parietals. *T. angusticeps* cannot be separated from *T. picturatus*.

2. DENDRELAPHIS SCHLENCKERI, sp.nov.

Maxillary teeth 20. Eye very large, as long as its distance from the middle of the nostril. Rostral about twice as broad as deep, just visible from above; internasals as long as the pre-frontals; frontal once and a half to once and three-fifths as long as broad, much longer than its distance from the end of the snout, shorter than the parietals; loreal elongate, between twice and thrice as long as broad; one pre- and two post-oculars, the lower small; temporals 2 + 2 or 1 + 2; eight upper labials, fourth and fifth entering the eye; four lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields, which are much shorter than the posterior, the fifth greatly enlarged. Scales in 13 rows. Ventrals 185 to 187; anal divided; subcaudals 118 to 132. Upper surface olive-brown, the neck and anterior portion of the body much darker, with the vertebral series of scales bluish-white, tipped with pale brown, forming a conspicuous band; a narrow black streak from the snout to the neck; upper labial, lower surface of head, and throat yellow; lower surface of body bluish-white, indistinctly spotted with darker. (Named for its discoverer, the Rev. H. P. Schlencker of the London Missionary Society.)



($\times 1\frac{1}{2}$)

This species is closely allied to *Dendrelaphis papuensis*, but differs constantly in the larger eye, longer frontal, and decreased number of lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shield. Five specimens are in the collection, the largest measuring 1,100 millimeters, the tail being 350.



Note by T. Steel.—I have placed the type specimen of this snake in the Australian Museum, Sydney (Register No. R. 2380), and purpose sending a specimen to the British Museum of Natural History.

3. DIPSADOMORPHUS IRREGULARIS.

One specimen.

4. PLATURUS sp.

I am unable to determine to which species this example should be referred—*schistorhynchus* or *muelleri*. The rostral is deeper than broad; there is no azygous shield between the nasals, but a large one is present between the prefrontals; the frontal is longer than the parietals; eight upper labials; 1 + 2 temporals; scales in 22 series; ventrals 238; subcaudals 35. Black annuli 66.

From *muelleri*, with which the example agrees best, it differs in the presence of an azygous prefrontal shield, the frontal exceeding the parietal, and the number of series of body scales.

I am not quite satisfied with the generic names assigned to some of our Australian *Hydrophiinae* by Dr. Boulenger. For instance, the name *Hydrus* is restricted to the species which is more commonly known as *Pelamis bicolor*; but it cannot properly be used for that species, because the type of *Hydrus*, Schneider, is *H. colubrinus* (Hist. Amph. i. p. 238, 1799); *colubrinus*, however, belongs to a group to which the generic name *Laticauda* had previously been given by Laurenti (Syn. Rept. p. 109, 1768), the type of whose genus is *Coluber laticaudatus*, Linnæus, and though the name is intrinsically bad, I do not think that for that reason only it can be ignored, since it had not been used by any earlier author. The second species of *Hydrus* described by Schneider (l.c. p. 240) is that which we now know as *Hydrophis fasciatus*, and if the name can be used at all—which I am not prepared to concede—it should be referred to the genus which is called *Hydrophis* by Dr. Boulenger. Schneider's third species is the *Anguis platura* of Linnæus (Syst. Nat. i. p. 391, 1766), the *Hydrus bicolor* of Schneider (l.c. p. 242), and the *Hydrus platurus* of the British Museum Catalogue; I am unable to understand how this latter

name can be defended on any of the laws which govern synonymy. The three other species referred by Schneider to the genus *Hydrus* belong to the other groups of colubrine snakes; they are : (1) *H. granulatus*, an aglyphous form, of which the correct name is *Chersydrus granulatus*, (2) *H. enhydri* (l.c. p. 245), and (3) *H. rhynchops* (l.c. p. 246), opisthoglyphous snakes, which are now generally recognised as *Hypsirhina enhydri* and *Cerberus rhynchops*. Each of these species has an equal title, perhaps I should be more correct in saying an equally bad title, to the name *Hydrus* as the *Anguis platura* has. I have not the books of reference necessary to determine whether *Pelamis* can be used for this species, but it is significant that no less than nine pages (357 to 366) separate the diagnosis of the genus *Pelamis* from that of the species *bicolor*. In any case *Hydrus* is only a synonym of *Laticauda*, *Platurus*, Daudin, which Dr. Boulenger uses, being later than either of these. I would, therefore, prefer to call our species *Laticauda muelleri*.

PISCES.

The collection of fishes contains 10 specimens, all of which are in bad condition, and, with the exception of two (Nos. 2 and 6), immature. They are as follows :—

1. *Plotosus arab*, Forskål.
2. *Lycodontis fimbriatus*, Bennett.
3. *Atherina* sp.
4. *Therapon jarbua*, Forskål.
5. *Mouacanthus tomentosus*, Linnæus.
6. *Periophthalmus koelreuteri*, Pallas.
7. *Platophrys* sp.

IV. INSECTA and ARACHNIDA—By W. J. RAINBOW.*

The collection of insects, etc., enumerated below is essentially typical of the Arthropod fauna of the Austro-Malayan region. Many of them are peculiarly Papuan; some few are found in other parts of the Pacific; and two at any rate, namely, the cockroach, *Panesthia athops*, and the centipede, *Scolopendra morsicans*, have a world-wide distribution.

COLEOPTERA.

Family CARABIDÆ.

Therates cœruleus, Latr.; this species is also found in Java, and was described by Gory as *T. javanicus* in Mag. Zool., Vol. 39, 1831.

Tricondyla aptera, Oliv.

Family STAPHYLINIDÆ.

Actinus macleayi, Oll.; originally recorded from Cairns, N. Queensland.

Family LUCANIDÆ.

Leptaulax dentatus, (?) Web.; other localities are East Indian Archipelago, Timor.

Family SCARABÆIDÆ.

Subfamily MELOLONTHINÆ.

Lepidiota 5-lineata, Macl.

Subfamily CETONINÆ.

Lomaptera ignipennis, Ges.

„ *salvadorii*, Ges.

Family BUPRESTIDÆ.

Chalcophora deyrollei.

Cyphogastra gloriosa, Ges.

Family EUCNEMIDÆ.

Cafolus mæstus, Bon.

Family MALACODERMIDÆ.

Cladophorus longicornis, Macl.

„ *nigriceps*, Kirsch.

Calochromus formosus, Macl.

Luciola australis, Fab.; also New Ireland, Australia.

Family TENEBRIONIDÆ.

Amarygmus sp.

Family EDEMERIDÆ.

Nacerdes transmarina, Rainb.; originally obtained by Mr.

C. Hedley, F.L.S., at Funafuti, Ellice Group.

Nacerdes sp.

Family CURCULIONIDÆ.

Rhinoscaphus bicincta.; Woodlark Island.

Subfamily BRACHYDERINÆ.

Pachyrhynchus sp.

Subfamily OTIORHYNCHINÆ.

Siteutes cœruleatus, Pasc.

Subfamily CRYPTORHYNCHINÆ.

Blepiarda vittata, Pasc.

Subfamily ZYGOPINÆ.

Diomia tetragramma, Pasc.

Subfamily BARIDINÆ.

Myctides nitidulus, Pasc.

Subfamily CALANDRINÆ.

Rhyncophorus kaupi, Schauf.

Sphenophorus obscurus, d'Urv.

„ *nebulosus*, Macl.

Family BRENTIIDÆ.

Leptorhynchus angustus, Guér.

„ *linearis*, Pasc.; also Batchian, Moluccas.

Family ANTHRIBIDÆ.

Xenocerus leucogrammus, Mots.; North Australia.

Family CERAMBYCIDÆ.

Subfamily PRIONINÆ.

Mallodon sp.

Subfamily CERAMBYCINÆ.

Ceresium simplex, Gyll.; also obtained in the Philippines, Timor, Tahiti, Samoa, Australia, and New Zealand.

Tethionea unicolor, Pasc.; the Island of Aru.

Stenocerus simplex.

Subfamily LAMINÆ.

Tmesisternus bizonatus, Blanch., = *trivittatus*, Hombr.

Monohammus longicornis, Thoms.; the Island of Aru.

Batocera boisduvali, Hope; Woodlark Island, Queensland, and New South Wales.

Gnoma affinis, Guér.

Symphyletes sp.

Family CHRYSOMELIDÆ.

Subfamily GALERUCINÆ.

Oides ornata, Balz.

Prasyptera antennata, Jacobz.

Family COCCINELLIDÆ.

Epilachna signatipennis, Boisd.

DIPTERA.

Family TIPULIDÆ.

Macromastix costatis, Swed.; and in Australia, widely distributed.

Family TABANIDÆ.

Tabanus rubriventris.

ORTHOPTERA.

Family GRYLLIDÆ.

Gryllacris sp.

Gryllus servillei, Guér.; also widely distributed in Australia.

Family PHASMIDÆ.

Bacteria sp.

Family MANTIDÆ.

Rhombodera tamolana, Banc.; widely distributed throughout New Guinea.

Family BLATTARIÆ.

Panesthia athops, Stoll; of world-wide distribution.

A R A C H N I D A.

Family ULOBORIDÆ.

Uloborus flavolineatus, Rainb.; *vide* p. 333.

Dinopsis sp.

Family DICTYNIDÆ.

Amaurobins inornatus, L. Koch; also widely distributed throughout Australia.

Family ARGIOPIDÆ.

Tetragnatha cylindrica, Walck.; widely distributed throughout Australia.

Argiope ætheria, Walck., = *regalis*, L. Koch; Australia, Thursday Island, and New Ireland.

Argiope ætheria, Walck., var. *deusta*, Thor.

Gasteracantha crucigera, Brad.

Family LYCOSIDÆ.

Lycosa obscura, L. Koch; widely distributed throughout Australia.

S C O R P I O N I D Æ.

Family ANDROCTINIDÆ.

Isometrus maculatus, DeGeer; distributed throughout Oceania.

Family PANDINOIDÆ.

Hormurus australasie, Fab.; widely distributed throughout the Pacific.

Hormurus caudicula, L. Koch; Bowen, Rockhampton, Gayndah, and Sydney.

P E D I P A L P I.

Family PRYNOIDÆ.

Phrynus grayi, P. Gerv.; also found in the Philippines.

M Y R I A P O D A.

Family SCOLOPENDRIDÆ.

Scolopendra morsicans, Linn.; of world-wide distribution.

„ sp.

Family GEOPHILIDÆ.

Hymantharium sp.

iv. CRUSTACEA.—By T. WHITELEGGE.

M A C R O U R A.

Family PALÆMONIDÆ.

PALÆMON AFFINIS, M. Edwards, Hist. Nat. Crust. ii., p. 393 (1837); Dana, U.S. Explor. Exped., Crustacea, pt. 1, p. 584, pl. xxxviii. fig. 5 (1852); Bate, Chall. Rep. Zool. xxiv. p. 782, pl. cxxviii. fig. 5.

Leander affinis, Miers, Cat. Crust. New Zealand, 1876, p. 85.

There are eight examples of this somewhat widely distributed species. According to Miers it occurs at the Cape of Good Hope, Falkland Islands, and in New Zealand. The Challenger specimens were obtained in Port Jackson. It is not recorded in Haswell's Catalogue. The specimens exhibit a slight variation in the number of rostral spines; there are usually seven above and four below; in one example there are as many as seven spines on the lower surface.

S T O M A T O P O D A.

Family SQUILLIDÆ.

Lysiosquilla maculata, Fabr., M. Edw. Hist. Nat. Crust. 1837, ii. p. 518, pl. 26, fig. 11.

One young example of this species.

v. MOLLUSCA.—By C. HEDLEY, F.L.S.

The collection comprises the following mollusca, all of which are in this region abundant, and being conspicuous forms, have already been recorded from Eastern British New Guinea. For further information on the land mollusca an article on the subject in Vol. vi. Series ii. of these Proceedings may be referred to.

The land shells are:—*Vanina huustei*, Smith, *Papuina brumeriensis*, Forbes, *Partula similaris*, Hartman, *Helicina suprafasciata*, Sowerby, var. *sinus*, Hedley, and *Leptopoma vitreum*, Lesson.

From the brooks there are:—*Veritina pulligera*, Linn., *Melania graeffei*, Mousson, and *M. arthurii*, Brot.

The only marine mollusc is the world-wide species *Linjula anatina*, Bruguiere

vi. OLIGOCHETA.—By J. J. FLETCHER.

Family PERICHLETIDÆ.

Perichaeta sp.—Three specimens (one damaged, and one juvenile), without clitella, and in too soft a condition to allow of satisfactory determination. The setæ are minute, and very numerous per somite.